

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting
February 8, 2005

6:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 8, 2005, in the East Room, York Hall, by Chairman James S. Burgett.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zarembo, Sheila S. Noll, Kenneth L. Bowman, James S. Burgett, and Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Also in attendance were James O. McReynolds, County Administrator; J. Mark Carter, Assistant County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

WORK SESSION

NEW PERSONNEL, PROGRAM, AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET

Mr. McReynolds stated the work session was a follow on to the work session held a week ago on the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and New Programs, Personnel, and Equipment to be included in the FY2006 budget. As a result, he indicated a number of issues were going to be addressed this evening, and staff would then address specific questions by the Board.

Mrs. Marycarol White, Director of Financial and Management Services, reviewed questions the Board asked from the February 1 work session regarding new personnel, and she noted that a Deputy Sheriff position would be added; the Commissioner of the Revenue has indicated she will forego some work-as-required funding to reallocate it to upgrade a position; the 4th person has been added for funding in mosquito control to make a full four-man team; and work-as-required funding will be used as a temporary solution to fund the position in vehicle maintenance and then fully fund the position as of January 1, 2006. Mrs. White then reviewed the current staffing levels showing their relationship with the recommendations, and she noted that the last page of the handouts provided show County-wide positions by functional area. She then addressed the Library needs assessment and the request by Mrs. Noll to move it into the 2006 budget.

Mrs. Noll stated that by the time the assessment is complete and the Board and staff start moving on it, it will be several years out. She indicated she would prefer to have an objective survey done rather than have staff do it.

Mrs. White next addressed the questions the Board had regarding the Mobile Data Terminals (MDT), stating staff was recommending delaying their purchase from 2006 to 2007.

Mr. McReynolds noted the Board's concern about placing the units in Fire and Life Safety vehicles. He stated that one of the reasons he recommended moving it to 2007 was because of funding as well as cost increases in the school area because of increased construction costs. He indicated Chief Kopczynski had a presentation to give to address some of the Board's concerns. Mr. McReynolds stated if staff cannot fully answer the questions, he suggested setting up a time for the Board members to visit the department and see a hands-on demonstration.

Stephen Kopczynski, Fire Chief, gave a presentation on the need for mobile data terminals in selected Fire and Life Safety units. He stated the units will provide emergency responders with

immediate access to important Head's Up/Patient Care and Hazardous Materials information, access to incident-specific technical information to provide quicker and more effective services, and the ability to shorten EMS reporting at the hospital, thus increasing the availability of critically needed EMS resources.

Chairman Burgett asked why the terminals are so expensive and how many vehicles would get them.

Chief Kopczynski stated the total would be 34, and they would be in primary response vehicles and medic units, as well as certain command vehicles.

Mrs. Noll stated the MDT capability is the Cadillac of service to the citizens, and there is a point where the Board has to ask how much is enough. She stated she could not see the need for as many units as are recommended.

A lengthy discussion followed concerning the need for MDT units in Fire and Life Safety vehicles and their cost.

Mr. Shepperd and Mr. Bowman indicated they needed more information on the MDT units regarding service and maintenance, as well as their compatibility with other jurisdictions and the military.

Mr. McReynolds indicated the two major reasons for including the MDTs in the CIP are that he believed it will affect the staff's ability to respond more quickly, and it will provide better information to treat the people and/or fight the fire during an emergency situation. He stated that the staff currently was meeting the response times, but it is becoming much more difficult to meet them. The use of these units will postpone for some time the County's need for more personnel. The question now is whether or not the service improvements warrant the investment, but he stated that specific measures of the MDTs' impact on service delivery were not available. Mr. McReynolds stated he would be happy to sit down with the Board members individually and let the staff show them how the system will work.

Chairman Burgett stated the County just bought a new communication system, and he did not understand why it could not be used to provide necessary information for any incident. He indicated the requested MDT units do not seem to be mission critical.

Sheriff J. D. Diggs stated that having been involved with the concept of mobile data terminals for over 10 years, he knows how valuable they are. Over the last week he stated he has seen hours and hours of information on the use of the terminals, and he would say that the Fire and Life Safety need is just as important and valuable to them as it is to the Sheriff's Office. He stated it is a matter of accessibility of information and the timeliness in receiving it. The laptop provides fluid information. Sheriff Diggs noted it was very difficult for the Board to make this decision based on the limited amount of information received tonight. He stated staff was just asking that the Board keep it in the CIP.

Meeting Recessed. At 6:50 p.m. Chairman Burgett declared a short recess.

Meeting Reconvened. At 6:58 p.m. the meeting was reconvened in open session by order of the Chair.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP) FY2006-2011

At this time the Board members reviewed each item of the CIP, and the Board asked Mr. McReynolds to put the subject of undergrounding utilities on the Retreat work session agenda for March 12. The Board also agreed that before going out to contract for certain sur-

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veys/assessments, such as the Library needs assessment, staff should provide the Board with an in-house assessment first.

Meeting Adjourned. At 8:03 p.m. Chairman Burgett declared the meeting adjourned sine die.

James O. McReynolds, Clerk
York County Board of Supervisors

James S. Burgett, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors